From the Principal

Welcome

A very belated welcome back to school, I hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable break. A very big thank you to the parents, citizens and staff of our small community for getting the school grounds back under control ready for the school year. The students and I are very appreciative!

This year our newsletter will be sent home electronically every fortnight, however, if you would like a paper version please feel free to contact the school. It will also be available on our website at www.mackrivess.eq.edu.au, I encourage everyone to check the website for updates and news items throughout the year.

This year we welcome three new staff members. Myself, Mr Troy Mutton as Acting Principal, Mrs Nicole Evitt and Miss Wallis Bintley. Mrs Evitt will be teaching Physical Education and Health, and Miss Bintley will be joining us as our Japanese teacher via distance education.

School Priorities

Our three main school priorities this year are writing, numeracy and reading and as such there will be an emphasis placed upon them. Students have already started to complete writing and reading tasks daily and are also currently consolidating math concepts through Mathletics.

You can assist in our school priorities by reading books to and with your child, assisting with their homework, or even by going through their multiplication facts with them. Success is a team effort and I look forward to working with the parents and students of our school towards our goals.

Attendance

This year Mackenzie River SS will continue to have a focus on attendance. Attendance is a priority for all Queensland state schools and put simply, the more your child attends school the greater the opportunity they will have to learn and achieve. Every Day Counts. Currently, our attendance is at 96.4%, meeting our goal of 95%. Thank you for your efforts, let’s keep it up!
Swimming Lessons

Unfortunately swimming lessons have been unable to occur this term due to unforeseen circumstances. Steps have already been taken to ensure that it occurs in Term 4 this year.

Staff Professional Development

I would like to let the MRSS community know that a number of professional development days coming up this term will necessitate my absence from school. Though I have endeavoured wherever possible to minimise time away from teaching, not all meetings / training sessions are unavoidable, especially at the beginning of the year. Between the State Principal’s conference, regional Principal’s meetings and mandatory training sessions I will be off campus for a number of days in the coming weeks, unfortunately, some of them in consecutive stretches. I’m looking forward to coming back with some fantastic new ideas to share with our wonderful students and staff!
Minion of the Week

Last week we celebrated our very first Minion of the Week. The Minion of the Week award is earned by a student that demonstrates one of our five keys to success. Last week it was awarded to Joe Schottelius for his perseverance with writing. Our second Minion of the Week was awarded to Antony Torrisi for his confident approach to his writing and handwriting tasks. Well done boys!

Sizzling Starts

Sizzling starts are one step in our Seven Steps to writing program. We have seen some great Sizzling Starts in our writing so far. Here is one example from one of our wonderful students.

Bang! “MJ!” yelled Sara. It wasn’t MJ’s fault that she had just jumped up on the table and knocked a pan of fresh pancakes to the floor.

Homework

Homework began this week and will continue on a weekly basis throughout the year. We will be refining the homework procedures in the future weeks but if you have any concerns regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Removal of computers

At the moment we have a number of old computers that need to be transferred to a recycling plant in Rockhampton. If you are going to Rockhampton and are able to help (or know someone that can) please contact the school. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Permanent Cleaner Opportunity

Lastly, we currently have a permanent cleaning position available at Mackenzie River SS for approximately 14.75 hours. If you are interested, or know someone that is please contact the Principal at Mackenzie River by emailing the.principal@mackrivess.eq.edu.au or calling 4985 8155.

Regards,

Troy Mutton
Acting Principal